

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Requests for Extension of I-600A Approval Under 8 CFR 204.3(h)(3)(ii)** **(Applications Affected by the Suspension of Adoptions Due to SARS in China)**

On August 7, 2003, the Department of Homeland Security issued an interim regulation regarding adoptions from China that were affected by the temporary suspension of adoptions by the Chinese government due to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). This regulation, 8 CFR 204.3(h)(3)(ii), allows applicants to seek an extension of an approved Form I-600A (Application for Advanced Processing of Orphan Petition) beyond the 18 months normally allotted, ***if the applicants are unable to timely complete adoption processing due to the SARS suspension***. The following information instructs applicants on how to file for an extension, and explains the eligibility criteria.

#### **REQUEST FOR EXTENSION**

Prospective adoptive parents requiring an extension of the Form I-600A approval may do so **either in person (during office hours) or by writing to the attention of the Interim District Director** of the office that originally adjudicated the I-600A. **Requests for extensions should be submitted by September 30, 2003.** In all cases, requests must address the following:

- A copy of the Form I-600A approval notification (usually a Form I-171H or Form I-797C);
- A statement or documents demonstrating that the adoption was interrupted by the suspension; and,
- An affirmative statement signed by the applicant (and, if the applicant is married, by the spouse, as well) confirming whether or not there have been any significant changes relating to the home study submitted in support of the expired I-600A, and as required by 8 CFR 204.3(e) (e.g. change in residence of the applicants, marital status, criminal history, financial resources, and/or the addition of one or more children or other dependents to the applicant's family). **If there have been any significant changes concerning any of the issues which under 8 CFR 204.3(e), the home study must address, then an amendment to the home study is required.**

*Fingerprint Clearances:* Fingerprint clearances must be valid at the time I-600A approval is extended and at the time the Form I-600 is adjudicated. There is no waiver of fingerprint requirements for 8 CFR 204.3(h)(3)(ii) extensions.

*Fees:* There is no fee for an 8 CFR 204.3(h)(3)(ii) request. Applicants who have already filed a new I-600A in order to complete the adoption in China, but are now eligible for an 8 CFR 204.3(h)(3)(ii) extension, may request an extension and a refund of the I-600A fee.

*Amended I-171H:* Extensions will be documented on a reissued I-171H and/or I-797C.